

NOTE

Correct application of the nominal genus *Brachista* Walker
(Hymenoptera: Trichogrammatidae)

Studies in progress on the North American Trichogrammatidae require clarification of the definition of the genus *Brachista* Walker. This nominal genus has had a tortuous history since its debut in 1851. Presumably intended for one or more European forms, nomenclatural convention mandates that its application be restricted to a New World species currently placed in *Giraultiola* Nowicki.

Brachista was described for one or more unnamed species of Trichogrammatidae by Walker (1851. The Annals and Magazine of Natural History 7: 210-216). Foerster (1856. Hymenopterologische Studien II: 88), erroneously considering the name a junior homonym of *Brachistes* Wesmael, proposed *Brachysticha* as a replacement name. Foerster also failed to tie the new name to nominal species. The first such association was by Ashmead (1894. Journal of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History 17: 170-172) in describing the North American species, *Brachysticha fidae*. The first association of a European species with the genus (misspelled as *Brachystira*) occurred a decade later upon Mayr's (1904. Verhandlungen der k. k. zoologisch-botanischen Gesellschaft in Wien 54: 559-598) description of *B. pungens*. Mayr's concept of the genus was maintained by Kryger (1918. Entomologiske Meddelelser 12: 257-354), who also corrected Foerster's unjustified emendation and resurrected the name *Brachista*. Although *Brachysticha fidae* Ashmead had been acknowledged as the correct type species of *Brachista* (Gahan and Fagan 1923. United States Natural Museum Bulletin 124: 23), its relationship to European representatives was not addressed until 1936 by Nowicki.

Nowicki (1936. Zeitschrift für ange-

wandte Entomologie 23: 114-148) recognized that *fidiae* Ashmead and *pungens* Mayr were not congeneric. Unfortunately he retained Mayr's concept of *Brachista* as based on *pungens*, and transferred Ashmead's species to a new genus, *Giraultiola*. Modern workers have followed Nowicki by recognizing *Giraultiola* as a valid North American genus, and restricting *Brachista* to *pungens* and other related Old World species (e.g., Doutt and Viggiani 1968. Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences, 4th series 35: 477-586; Yousuf and Shafee 1986. Indian Journal of Systematic Entomology 3: 29-82).

Article 67 of The International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (1985) states that a nominal species cannot be fixed as the type of a nominal genus if it was not included when the nominal genus was established or when nominal species were first subsequently assigned to the nominal genus. Article 69 allows only nominal species that were first subsequently and expressly included in the nominal genus to be considered as type species. This precludes assigning *pungens* or any other European species as the type of *Brachista* because, (1) Walker's description of the genus omitted any reference to species, and (2) the first subsequent reference of a nominal species to *Brachista* (as *Brachysticha*) was Ashmead's description of the North American *fidiae*. Thus, *Brachysticha fidae* Ashmead is the type species of *Brachista* Walker by subsequent monotypy, and *Giraultiola* Nowicki is an objective junior synonym.

This raises the question of the correct genus name for the European species erroneously assigned to *Brachista*. The next available name would appear to be *Chaetostrichella* Girault (1914. Mitteilungen aus

dem Zoologischen Museum in Berlin 7: 147–149). *Chaetostrichella* has been treated as a junior synonym of *Brachista* (*sensu* Nowicki) and its type species, *C. platoni* Girault, is a junior synonym of *pungens* Mayr (Nowicki 1936, Douth and Viggiani 1968).

Synonymies reflecting this nomenclatural correction are as follows:

Brachista Walker

Brachista Walker 1851: 211.

Brachysticha Foerster 1856: 88 (unjustified emendation, objective junior synonym of *Brachista*). Ashmead, 1894: 171 (establishment of *Brachysticha fidae* Ashmead as type species by subsequent monotypy).

Giraultiola Nowicki 1936: 136 (*Brachysticha fidae*, type species by monotypy). Douth and Viggiani 1968: 552. **NEW SYNONYMY.**

Giraultia: Steffan 1954: 669 (subsequent misspelling of *Giraultiola*).

Included species: *Brachista fidae* (Ashmead) (= *Lathromeris cicadae* Howard), **NEW COMBINATION**; two undescribed species (Pinto, in prep.).

***Chaetostrichella* Girault, RENEWED STATUS**

Brachystira: Mayr 1904: 590 (subsequent misspelling of *Brachysticha* Foerster).

Chaetostrichella Girault 1914: 147 (Type species, *Chaetostrichella platoni* Girault by monotypy).

Brachista: Nowicki 1936: 136. Douth and Viggiani 1968: 497.

Included species: *Chaetostrichella pungens* (Mayr) [(= *C. platoni* Girault, *C. nigra* (Kryger)], *C. rufina* (Nowicki), *C. similis* (Kryger). **NEW COMBINATIONS.**

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